to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rain fed farming systems reforming agricultural markets, putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers, etc.

Compensation under NAIS for loss due to natural calamity

†1797. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for compensation under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for the losses caused due to natural disasters;

(b) whether losses caused due to frost is included in it; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a Yield Guarantee Scheme.It provides coverage against yield losses caused due to non-preventable natural calamities which *inter alia* include natural fire and lightening, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado, flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, pests, diseases and frost.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to fishermen of Goa

1798. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for assisting fishermen who have lost vessels on account of natural calamities including rough weather at the sea;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme including pattern of assistance;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Government of Goa has received any such assistance in the past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Banning pesticides

1799. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some 69 pesticides that are banned or restricted in some countries because of their harmful effects are still being used in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for continuing the use of these pesticides in the country; and

(c) whether Government would phase out the harmful pesticides after assessing their harmful effects in Indian environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Registration Committee, constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, registers pesticides for use in the country only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety. 68 pesticides which are banned/restricted in some countries are allowed to be used in the country. The use of 33 of these pesticides has been allowed to be continued as per the recommendations of Expert Groups and the Registration Committee following their thorough review as per statement I (*See* below). The remaining 35 pesticides, as well as Monocrotophos, which was also reviewed earlier, have been identified for review of their toxicity, persistence, safety etc. by an Expert Group in order to decide upon their continued use or restricted use or phasing out as per statement-II.